

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AF, IN, US

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING FOR AFGHANS

REF: NEW DELHI 10918

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS INDIAN FINANCE MINISTRY RELUCTANT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE SUSPENSION OF AID-FINANCED THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING IN INDIA (AS INDICATED IN REFTEL AND MORE RECENTLY IN NEW DELHI 11853 REGARDING REQUEST FROM USAID DACCA) AND IN GENERAL WE DO NOT PLAN TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE ANY FURTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHETHER THE GOI MIGHT NOT SEE A POLITICAL INTEREST IN MAKING AN EXCEPTION FOR SOME MODEST AMOUNT OF TRAINING FOR AFGHANS.

2. ASSUMING, AS THE INDIANS HAVE TOLD US, THAT THE GOI
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SHARES OUR VIEW THAT AFGHANISTAN SHOULD BE GIVEN DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS OTHER THAN COMPLETE RELIANCE ON THE SOVIETS, WE THINK WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST WITH THE GOI IN USING U.S.-OWNED RUPEES FOR TRAINING OF AFGHANS IN INDIA. TYPES OF TRAINING WOULD BE LEFT FOR LATER DISCUSSION DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE DRA AND THE GOI WITH USAID KABUL MONITORING AND ASSISTING WHEN NECESSARY, BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL

NOW TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION IN PRINCIPLE AT AN APPROPRIATE
POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE GOI. WE DO THINK

IT IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR INTEREST IN PRESERVING AFGHAN
INDEPENDENCE TO ENCOURAGE INDIAN INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN'S
DEVELOPMENT, AND AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ON OUR PART
IN USING OUR RUPEES FOR TRAINING OF AFGHANS IN INDIA COULD
SERVE TO STIMULATE THE GOI INTO EXPANDING ITS PROGRAMS
EVEN IF THE ANSWER TO OUR REQUEST WOULD BE NEGATIVE.

3. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES THIS APPROACH AS COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE, YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER AT AN APPROPRIATE
LEVEL AT MEA AND ADVISE US OF REACTIONS. FOLLOWING TALK-
ING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE:

-- WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY DRA REAFFIRMATIONS THAT IT
INTENDS TO FOLLOW A NONALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY AND TO MAIN-
TAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE GOI SHARES OUR VIEW THAT WE
SHOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED AFGHAN RELIANCE
ON A BROAD RANGE OF SOURCES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND
NOT BECOME COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES
FOR AID.

-- SINCE U.S. LEGISLATION REQUIRES THE USE OF U.S.
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OWNED EXCESS CURRENCY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE AND
WE CANNOT ARGUE FOR A REAL RESOURCE TRANSFER IN THIS CASE
WE CANNOT SEE HOW TO FUND TRAINING WITH DOLLARS BUT WE
WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH THE GOI IN THE UTILIZATION OF SOME
OF OUR RUPEE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT
TRAINING TO AFGHANS (CONSISTENT WITH OUR OVERALL DEVELOP-
MENT OBJECTIVES IN AFGHANISTAN) AT APPROPRIATE INDIAN
INSTITUTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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